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# The *Evans & Reeves* Grapevine

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## DAIS COTINIFOLIA

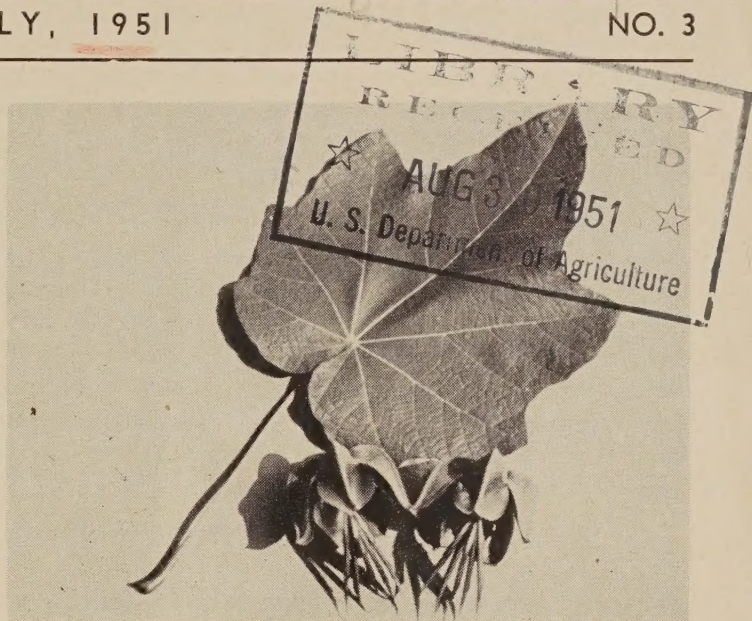
### **NEW & RARE**

Here in Southern California we are always glad to welcome newcomers to our company of flowering trees. Such a subject is Dais cotinifolia from South Africa. A good many years ago there used to be a lone specimen of this beautiful small tree in Elysian Park. As it stood precariously on a steep bank just above the road, we were always apprehensive that a heavy rainstorm would carry the bank and tree away, and our fears unfortunately proved well-founded, for that is just what happened.

For 20 years we tried unsuccessfully to procure seed from South Africa, where it is said to be scarce. At last after all that time we obtained seed and raised the young trees. In its native country it is described as being deciduous, but it has lost few leaves with us in winter, is hardy so far as cold is concerned (that is to several degrees of frost), and it blooms at two years of age, the flowers being a soft pink nearly two inches across, rather resembling the flowers of a large clover.

Dais should be planted in full sun, though a little shade would not be injurious. Our plants in containers have reached a height of three to four feet in two years; in the ground the rate of growth naturally would be faster. We are of the opinion the ultimate height of this tree is about 25 feet.

To those people who are interested in the new and unusual, we confidently recommend this attractive little tree, Dais cotinifolia, which seems to be quite happy with us and is a valuable addition to our gardens. (At \$7.50)



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### **Monkey - Hand Tree**

The fascinating Monkey-Hand tree of Guatemala is still an uncommon sight in Southern California although it is ideally suited to this area where it grows with vigor and rapidity.

This member of the Sterculia family, Chiranthodendron platanoides to be tongue-twistingly correct, derives its common name, Monkey-Hand, from the fantastic blossoms which are to be found just underneath the outer foliage during the warm months of the year. Shaped like a large heavily waxed tulip of deep brick red, the Chiranthodendron flower has a startling stamen protruding several inches beyond the cup in the shape of a long, slender, realistic claw brushed with bright yellow pollen.

As cut flowers these keep well and form a most unusual and arresting floral arrangement. The cup-shaped flowers with the extraordinary "hands" can be seen in our store on the driveway throughout the blooming period.

It is recorded that a single specimen of the weird Monkey-Hand tree was venerated by ancient Central Americans as being awe-inspiringly unique, although later an entire grove was discovered on the side of a Guatemalan volcano.

Of distinctly tropical aspect, Chiranthodendron is an evergreen, large plane-leaved tree which, in good soil with plenty of water, establishes itself

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## Shade!

July is the time of year one begins to use his shady areas for living, so let's take a look at your shade gardens. There must be room for more color overhead, so how about another couple of hanging Fuchsia baskets? We have about twenty named varieties of **Fuchsias** full grown and in full bloom in four-inch baskets, some streaming with blue Lobelia, some just Fuchsias, priced as low as you could make them up and grow and train them.

Further splendid subjects for hanging pots or baskets are **Sedum morganianum** (Donkey's tail) which is handsome the year around; **Sedum sieboldi** with gray succulent foliage and soft pink flowers; delicate glacier **Ivy** in dark green and white; **Lotus Bertholetti**, with needle-like gray foliage and dark red bird's-bill blossoms, for sun or shade (don't keep it too wet); and **Begonia scharffiana** with great red velvet leaves and rosy-red flowers.

**Tuberous Begonias** in pots, a group of three or more, are a gay solution to a shady end of the terrace. And what is more showy on starlight evenings than a whole bed of white **Impatiens** backed with white **Hydrangea**? Don't forget **Streptocarpus**, too, for setting in the now fading early summer shade bed—blue, violet, raspberry, pink and white. It's perennial, resembles Gloxinia but is much easier. Mass bedding from flats this month gives you two more blue subjects, **Browallia** and **Torenia**, the latter perennial. Then there are water **Mimulus**, like low **Calceolarias**, in bronze and golden tones.

Something different in shrubbery for the shade might include, among endless others, **Ficus benjamina**; **Ruscus aculeatus**; **Schefflera digitata** (often confused with *Brassaia*); **variegated Bamburanta**; **Viburnum cinnamomifolium** (slow, but increasingly magnificent with the years); or **Itea illicifolia**, to mention an old one far too little seen. A fine evergreen shade vine which we recommend unreservedly is **Semele androgyna**. Ask us to show you these materials.

Back out in the sun for a quick roundup of the month's musts, this is the time **to set out new and divide old Iris clumps**. Set out blooming perennials—we have a fine selection of **Dianthus**, **Achilleas**, **Salvias** (don't forget *Salvia pitcheri* for tall late true-blue,) and **Michelmas Daisies**. There is still time for great beds of **Zinnias**, **Asters**, **Cosmos**, and **Marigolds**. Cut back your **Chrysanthemums** for the last time in July, then let them grow with lots of Gro-rite and water. A limited supply of extra **late-flowering Chrysanthemums**, Kramer strains, are available in plant bands now until August 15, 20 cents each, all colors except yellow. These **bloom Thanksgiving until January!** Keep the whole garden well watered and don't forget to spray.

## Hugh Evans

Permanence and longevity in plants are surely sterling virtues, for we naturally feel a strong attachment for the plants which have companioned us down the passing years, and the death of a tree we have admired and cherished affects us like the loss of an old friend.

The late Sir Herbert Maxwell, the eminent authority on gardens, who wrote with such charm, high knowledge and distinction, and with whom, a good many years ago, I used to exchange letters and seeds, relates in this connection, how in old English gardens, vigorous clumps of scarlet *Lychnis* and fragrant *Dittany* (coeval with mighty oaks in the Park outside) are still in full health and vigor; and that a girl may still gather flowers from the self-same tuft on which another of her kin had dropped tears as she thought of husband or lover killed with Falkland at Newbury, or Rupert at Marston moor, three hundred years before.

In these uneasy and turbulent times, our gardens are a haven of peace where we can ward off the thought of all those forces which would destroy peace and beauty, and shut the gates of mercy on mankind.

### Monkey-Hand Tree

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rapidly and grows at a great rate, becoming a tree of considerable proportions in a short time. Probably local specimens have not reached full growth for in their native land Monkey-Hand trees exceed the 25 foot height and 15 foot spread observed hereabouts.

The slight distribution of the Monkey-Hand tree in California is due in part to the difficulty in obtaining seed in its native habitat, where a weevil attacks the seed. However, Evans and Reeves has finally achieved seed here and is able to offer these exotic and rewarding trees in one and five gallon containers at \$2.50 and \$7.50.



## Darkness at Dawn



WALTER OERTEL

Few people can understand what makes an accountant like his job of pouring over figures and papers day after day. The same may well hold true for the work of our personality of the month.

Amongst other duties, Walter Oertel grows in a year's time some 6000 Fuchsias, 10,000 Primulas, 6000 Begonias and 4000 Pelargoniums. Let no one make the mistake and think that growing a plant for sale is a simple matter. It takes feeding and budding, watering, potting and repotting, and all sorts of special care. The plants have to be ready at a certain time, and when one group is sold the next one must be in salable condition.

All this is second nature for Walter. He was born of two generations of nurserymen near Dresden, Germany. As was customary in that country, a trade was learned the hard way from the bottom up. And Walter really learned it, now having some 62 years of experience. With the methodical mind often attributed to Germans, Walter can account for every one of his many plants as to age, color and longevity. He knows the turnover in his department probably better than anyone else in the whole nursery.

This being Fuchsia time, why not take a look at his many beautiful "creations" and if you don't agree that they are about the most beautiful plants you have ever seen, you don't even have to go and tell him about it.

### Scene: The Breakfast Table

Dear, we still haven't got a plant for the bay window to take the place of the one you took out because it grew so big.—O.K., O.K., I'LL STOP AT THE NURSERY ON THE WAY HOME AND PICK SOMETHING UP.—Now dear, why don't you let me get it. You know what happened last time you picked something up. It . . . —OH, SO I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PLANTS, EH? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT RUBBER TREE OUT THERE? BEST LOOKING TREE ON THE BLOCK! AND WHO PICKED THAT OUT?—You did, darling. But the man did tell you that this kind was better suited for a large estate because the roots . . . —ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. SO HE WAS WRONG. LOOK AT IT, IT'S PERFECT.—Maybe so, dear, but why is the sidewalk beginning to bulge?—NOW LOOK, LET'S NOT ARGUE ABOUT THAT TREE.—All right, dear, but I do wish you would let me pick out that plant for the bay window.—SAY, WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU THINK I'M OLD ENOUGH TO BUY A PLANT?—All right, darling, you get the plant. But for Heaven's sake listen to what the man says about its habits.—NOW FORGET IT. I'LL HANDLE THIS.

### Later—The Nursery

Good afternoon, sir—HELLO. SAY, I WANT A PLANT FOR THE FRONT OF MY HOUSE. LIKE SOMETHING WITH FLOWERS.—Yes sir. Right over here is an attractive shrub that . . . —WHAT COLOR FLOWERS DOES IT HAVE?—Pink, and it . . . —DON'T LIKE PINK. SAY, WHAT'S THAT BUSH OVER THERE WITH ALL THE FLOWERS?—That, sir, is called the Flame Bush. —HMM, NOT BAD, NOT BAD. NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT. HOW LONG DOES IT BLOOM? —About three months. —BOY, SURE MAKES A SHOW. THINK I'LL TAKE THAT.—Yes sir. By the way, give this plant plenty of room. It's a large grower and . . . —WELL, IT CAN BE CUT BACK, CAN'T IT?—Yes, but . . . —THAT'S O.K. CUT THE CAN, I'LL TAKE IT WITH ME.

### Breakfast—One Year Later

Darling, don't you think it's getting a little dark in here?—YEAH, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE DAYLIGHT AROUND HERE?—Well, don't look now, dear, but isn't that the Flame Bush covering up the bay window?—YEAH, WHY DOESN'T THAT DUMB GARDENER CUT IT BACK?—Dear, he already has, three times.—WELL, TELL HIM TO KEEP CUTTING IT BACK.—And everytime he does, it looks worse. It isn't supposed to be kept that low and it . . . —O.K., O.K., TELL HIM TO TAKE THE DARN THING OUT. I'LL STOP BY THE NURSERY THIS AFTERNOON AND PICK SOMETHING OUT . . . etc.





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